

in response to the cited art. Claims 4, 5, 12, 17 and 18 have been amended to conform to the above amendments. Applicant submits that no new matter has been added by this amendment.

Claims 3-15 and 17-21 stand rejected as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 5,502,576 ("Ramsay") variously in view of U.S. Patent Nos. 5,606,609 ("Houser") and 5,687,236 ("Moskowitz"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Drawings

Substitute drawings addressing the draftperson's objection will be filed upon an indication of allowance. Applicant respectfully requests that the drawings objection be held in abeyance until such time.

Interview Summary

Applicant expresses appreciation for the courtesies extended by Examiner Patel to the undersigned, Steve Stewart, and inventor Geoff Rhoads, during a personal interview conducted on March 18, 2002. The resulting Interview Summary Form (PTO-413) is herein incorporated by reference.

Applicant appreciates the indication by the Examiner in the above-mentioned Interview Summary Form that claims 3, 8, 9 and 13 in independent form appear allowable over the prior art of record.

Claims 3, 8, 9, 11 and 13

Claims 3, 8, 9 and 13 have been rewritten independent form including the features of their respective base claims.

Accordingly, applicant submits that these claims should be allowed.

Claim 11 has also been rewritten in independent form to include the features of its base claims (former claims 5, 2 and 1). Applicant submits that claim 11 should also be allowed.

Claim 19

Claim 19 is believed allowable over the cited art.

Claim 19 recites a method of invoking delivery of a set of data from a repository to a destination. The method includes: sensing a media object in human-perceptible form, and *converting same to electronic form*, said sensing and converting being performed by a first device; *decoding object identification data from the electronic form*; and *transmitting at least some of said decoded object identification data, without transmitting said electronic form*, so as to *invoke delivery of the set of data from the repository to the destination*.

Applicant notes that the subject Office Action failed to meet its burden of specifically addressing how the proposed reference combination teaches or suggests the inventive combination of features recited by independent claim 19. The proposed combination of Ramsay, Houser and Moskowitz – and any motivation for combining such – is also questioned by applicant.

Nevertheless, the proposed combination of Ramsay, Houser and Moskowitz is not understood to teach or suggest such an inventive combination of features as recited in claim 19.

Consider again applicant's inventive process.

A media object in human-perceptible form is sensed. The media object is *converted to an electronic form*, the sensing and converting being performed by a first device. Object identification data is *decoded from the electronic form*. *At least some of the decoded object identification data is transmitted, without transmitting the electronic form*, so as to *invoke delivery of a set of data from a repository to a destination*.

Applicant respectfully submits that claim 19 should be allowed.

Dependent Claims

The dependent claims are believed allowable in their own right in addition to being dependent upon their respective base claims.

For example, claim 27 recites the method of claim 19, wherein the object identification data comprises plural-bit watermark data steganographically encoded within the sensed media object. The repository communicates with a network, and the first device communicates with the network through a relatively low bandwidth channel. And the destination communicates with the network through a relatively high bandwidth channel, the destination being distinct from the first device. Such a combination is believed patentable over the cited art in its own right, in addition to the patentable combination recited by claim 19.

And claim 28 further defines the method of claim 27, wherein the decoded object identification data is transmitted from the first device to the repository with instructions to invoke delivery of the data set from the repository to the destination.

Dependent claim 30 also further defines the method of claim 27, wherein the decoded object identification data is transmitted from the first device to the destination, and the destination communicates instructions to the repository to invoke delivery of the data set from the repository to the destination. Such a combination is believed patentable over the cited art in its own right, in addition to the patentable combination recited by claim 19.

Each of the remaining dependent claims recites features, which, in combination with their respective base claims, are believed distinguishable over the cited art. Individual consideration of each of the dependent claims is respectfully requested.

Information Disclosure Statement

An Information Disclosure Statement ("IDS") and Form 1449 are submitted concurrently herewith, along with a deposit account authorization to cover the appropriate fee. Consideration of the documents cited in the IDS is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

The application is believed to be in condition for allowance. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned if any issue remains.

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Respectfully submitted,

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Attachments: Marked-up Claims
Marked-up Paragraphs

Marked-up Claims

1. (Cancelled)

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Amended) A [The] method comprising: [of claim 2 in which]
sensing a media object in human-perceptible form, and converting same to an electronic
form, said sensing and converting being performed by a first device;
decoding object identification data from the electronic form, wherein the object
identification data comprises plural-bit watermark data steganographically encoded within the
sensed media object;
by reference to said object identification data, identifying a set of data stored in a
repository at a remote site, the set of data comprising at least one media content file; and
sending said set of data from said repository, wherein the media content file represents
the same media object as originally sensed, but represented with higher fidelity or accuracy.

4. (Amended) The method of claim 3 [2] in which:

the media object comprises a graphic on a printed page; and

the sending comprises sending the set of data to a second device remote from the first device.

5. (Amended) The method of claim 3 [2] in which the decoding is also performed by said first device, and the method includes sending at least a part of the watermark data from the first device.

6. (Unchanged) The method of claim 5 which includes sending at least a part of the watermark data to a second device, the second device being remote from the first device.

7. (Unchanged) The method of claim 6 in which the data repository comprises the second device.

8. (Amended) A [The] method comprising: [of claim 7 that includes]
sensing a media object in human-perceptible form, and converting same to an electronic form, said sensing and converting being performed by a first device;
decoding object identification data from the electronic form, the object identification data comprising plural-bit watermark data steganographically encoded within the sensed media object, wherein the decoding is performed by the first device;
sending at least a part of the watermark data from the first device to a data repository, the data repository being remote from the first device;
by reference to said object identification data, identifying a set of data stored in the data repository, the set of data comprising at least one media content file; and
sending a destination identifier to the data repository from the first device, the data repository thereafter sending the set of data in accordance with said destination identifier.

9. (Amended) A [The] method comprising: [of claim 6 in which the second device is distinct from the repository, and in which the method includes:]

sensing a media object in human-perceptible form, and converting same to an electronic form, said sensing and converting being performed by a first device;
decoding object identification data from the electronic form, the object identification data comprising plural-bit watermark data steganographically encoded within the sensed media object, wherein the decoding is performed by said first device;
sending at least a part of the watermark data from the first device to a second device, the second device being remote from the first device;
from the second device, accessing a data [the] repository by use of the at least [of] a part of the watermark data, wherein the second device is distinct from the data repository; [and]
by reference to said object identification data, identifying a set of data stored in the data repository, the set of data comprising at least one media content file;
sending said set of data from said data repository; and

receiving at the second device, the set of data from the data repository.

10. (Unchanged) The method of claim 9 which includes transmitting capability data from the second device to the repository, the capability data indicating the type(s) of media acceptable to the second device, and sending from the repository to the second device one of said types of media corresponding to said watermark data.

11. (Amended) A [The] method comprising: [of claim 5 in which the sending comprises sending]

sensing a media object in human-perceptible form, and converting same to an electronic form, said sensing and converting being performed by a first device;

decoding object identification data from the electronic form, the object identification data comprising plural-bit watermark data steganographically encoded within the sensed media object, wherein the decoding is performed by said first device;

sending at least a part of the watermark data from the first device to a second device, the second device being remote from the first device and being distinct from a data [the] repository at a remote site;

by reference to said object identification data, identifying a set of data stored in the data repository at the remote site, the set of data comprising at least one media content file; and sending said set of data from said data repository.

12. (Amended) The method of claim 3 [2] in which the decoding is performed by a second device remote from the first device.

13. (Amended) A [The] method comprising: [of claim 2 that further comprises:]

sensing a media object in human-perceptible form, and converting same to an electronic form, said sensing and converting being performed by a first device;

sending the electronic form of the media object to a second device remote from the first device;

decoding object identification data from the electronic form, the object identification data comprising plural-bit watermark data steganographically encoded within the sensed media object, the decoding being performed by [the watermark data from said electronic form at] the second device; [and]

using at least part of said watermark data to access a data repository at a [the] remote site; [and]

by reference to said object identification data, identifying a set of data stored in the data repository at the remote site, the set of data comprising at least one media content file;

sending said set of data from said data repository; and

receiving, at the second device, the set of data from said data repository.

14. (Unchanged) The method of claim 13 in which the data repository comprises the second device.

15. (Unchanged) The method of claim 13 in which the data repository is distinct from the second device.

16. (Cancelled)

17. (Amended) The method of claim 3 [16] which includes sending the set of data from the repository to a second device after decoding the watermark data at a third device distinct from the first and second devices.

18. (Amended) The method of claim 3 [2] in which the media object comprises audio.

19. (Unchanged) A method of invoking delivery of a set of data from a repository to a destination that includes:

sensing a media object in human-perceptible form, and converting same to electronic form, said sensing and converting being performed by a first device;

decoding object identification data from the electronic form; and

transmitting at least some of said decoded object identification data, without transmitting said electronic form, so as to invoke delivery of the set of data from the repository to the destination.

20. (Unchanged) The method of claim 19 in which the object identification data comprises plural-bit watermark data steganographically encoded within the sensed media object.

21. (Unchanged) A computer storage medium having stored thereon instructions causing a computer to perform the method of claim 19.

22. (Cancelled)

23. (Cancelled)

24. (New) The method according to claim 8, wherein the destination identifier is sent with the at least a part of the watermark data.

25. (New) The method according to claim 8, wherein the set of data is sent from the data repository to a second device, wherein the second device is remote from both the first device and the data repository.

26. (New) The method of claim 11, wherein the set of data is sent from the repository to the second device.

27. (New) The method of claim 19, wherein the object identification data comprises plural-bit watermark data steganographically encoded within the sensed media object, the repository communicating with a network, and wherein the first device communicates with the network through a relatively low bandwidth channel, and the destination communicates with the network through a relatively high bandwidth channel, the destination being distinct from the first device.

28. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the decoded object identification data is transmitted from the first device to the repository with instructions to invoke delivery of the data set from the repository to the destination.

29. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the instructions include an address of the destination.

30. (New) The method of claim 27, wherein the decoded object identification data is transmitted from the first device to the destination, and the destination communicates instructions to the repository to invoke delivery of the data set from the repository to the destination.

31. (New) The method of claim 30, in which the decoding is performed by the destination.

32. (New) The method of claim 19 which includes sending the set of data from the repository to a second device after decoding the watermark data at a third device which is distinct from the first and second devices, the destination comprising the second device.

Marked-up Paragraphs

The paragraph on page 1, lines 4-12

This application is a continuation-in-part of copending application 09/491,534, [_____] filed January 26, 2000, entitled Data Transmission by Watermark Proxy, [attorney docket 60099,] which is a continuation-in-part of copending application 09/473,396, filed December 28, 1999 entitled Watermark-Based Object Linking and Embedding, the disclosure of which is attached as Appendix A. This application is also a continuation-in-part of copending application 09/476,686, filed December 30, 1999, entitled Watermark-Based Personal Audio Appliance, the disclosure of which is attached as Appendix B. This application is also a continuation in part of copending application 60/134,782, filed May 19, 1999, the disclosure of which is attached as Appendix C.

The paragraph spanning page 3, line 22 to page 4, line 2.

--The watermark payload identifying the sensed image can be as long or as short as the application requires. Typically, payloads of between 16 and 64 bits are used, although this is not essential. Shorter payloads have the advantage that they can be more robustly encoded while maintaining a fixed degree of image quality; longer payloads offer a greater universe of identifiers with which the image can be labeled. Illustrative watermarking technology is detailed in the assignee's patent 5,862,260, and in copending application 09/503,881, [_____], filed February 14, 2000, entitled Watermark Embedder and Reader[(attorney docket 60112)]. A great variety of other watermarking arrangements may be used, including those proposed in patents 5,930,369, 5,933,798, 5,664,018, 5,825,892, 5,940,429 and 5,889,868.--